Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-92-114 *12 June 1992*

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Panama

President Bush made a five-hour visit en route to the environmental summit in Rio. Prior to his arrival, Foreign Minister Linares said that the transfer of the Panama Canal to Panamanian hands would be discussed, not the U.S. bases, Panama City TV reports. Linares said the Bush visit was positive, "first because the United States is currently the sole world power," because of the "close" U.S.-Panama ties, and because most countries of the Western world are implementing a rapprochement with the United States. Panama City radio reports that President Endara, in answer to a question says, "In reality, there is no agenda. Neither of us has a planned agenda. The main issue for Panama will be the transition period from now to the year 2000, when U.S. troops will evacuate the military bases and turn over the Panama Canal to us. It is very important that this transition be orderly. We want to do so in agreement with the United States, so that it will be a fluid transition." Later at a rally at which President Bush was scheduled to speak, police fired tear gas to break up a demonstration, which interrupted the proceedings and forced the evacuation of the speakers, including Bush, Panama City radio reported. The Panama City mayor blamed the incident on nervousness, lack of experience, and lack of training on the part of the police, Panama City radio reports. The mayor and a communique released by the Presidency Ministry, which was reported by Panama City TV, stressed the peaceful, friendly, and spontaneous nature of the majority of the people toward the Bush visit.

Venezuela

Caracas TV reports that the Copei National Committee held a "special meeting" on 11 June and "decided its activists would withdraw from the executive branch." As a result, President Carlos Andres Perez "has decided not to travel to the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit," according to Caracas TV.

Caracas TV reports that student demonstrations continue throughout the country.

Haiti

Socialists Make Proposal Before Ratifying Bazin

FL1106153992 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Before they voted to ratify Marc L. Bazin, the Chamber of Deputies adopted a three-point resolution which the socialist bloc had presented as a pact among the principal forces in the country, allowing Haiti to live stably so it can progress during the coming years. In its draft resolution, the socialist group rejected the idea of competing for posts within the consensus government which is to take office in the country. The socialist leaders believe it necessary that other points, such as social, governmental, and economic reforms be part of the consensus that is being discussed.

On the social plane, the socialist bloc requests that the next government revise the existing social security system as ONA [National Office for Old-Age Insurance] and OFATMA [workmen's compensation insurance] and set up a program to provide assistance to needy families and insurance programs for state employees.

On the economic level, the bloc asks the next government to take steps to eliminate corruption, bias, and smuggling; that it fight against the high cost of living; and that it allot 10 percent of the country's budget to the financing of small projects in the communal sections.

The consensus will not be complete unless there is change on the governmental level. On that score, the socialist bloc favors professionalization of the Army, modernization of the public administration, and a revision of the country's judicial system to guarantee everyone's freedom.

The socialist bloc also proposed that the law on the autonomy of the university be voted before the next academic year and that harmony be achieved between the executive and legislative branches so these two powers can work together better. This resolution proposal was voted during yesterday's session, but it was modified by a committee that the Office of the Chamber of Deputies had chosen to analyze it before submitting it to the rest of the assembly.

Reasons Given for Ratification Vote

FL1106184792 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1600 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Does the positive vote of the socialists yesterday imply that the consensus which was being sought has been found? Following is the response of Deputy Laveaux Jean-Baptiste, a member of the socialist bloc.

[Begin recording] [Jean-Baptiste] It is my right to abstain. If you look at the stand I took yesterday, I [words indistinct] that in my personal opinion, I think [words indistinct] not the choice of prime minister. This is why [words indistinct] the consensus. We eventually found the definition broadening of the consensus. This is the reason I did not vote against it.

[Unidentified reporter] Deputy Duly Brutus, who is also a member of the Socialist Bloc, explains yesterday's vote as a willingness by his group not to jam the country's progress over a matter of an individual. The most important step in this process of ratification, he asserts, is presentation by the prime minister of his general policy.

[Brutus] I want to say that we believe in dialogue; we believe in broad-mindedness; we believe in the country and the Haitian people. We are in a very difficult situation. We would hope for a much larger consensus so we could move ahead. We have noted, however, that many people still have questions, as they say, questions of principle, but meanwhile, the people are suffering. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Antony Barbier, an official of the National Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti whose representatives in Parliament are numerous in the Socialist Bloc, has criticized yesterday's vote. In his opinion, this vote does not fall into line with the previous stand of the bloc. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further on Resolution

FL1106185892 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 11 May 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yesterday the socialist deputies rejected any ideas of consensus that would depend on a sharing of ministerial posts among the political parties. In a statement, the deputies demand a clear commitment by the new government on certain issues. They demand, among other things, the professionalization of the Army, a reform within the Haitian judicial system, the reinstatement of those elected on 16 December 1990, the exercise of public freedoms, a plan to oppose the high cost of living, and the modernization of public administration.

The socialist group advocates a consensus government on the basis of an honest pact among the political, military, and economic forces in the country to ensure a certain political stability for the upcoming years.

Further on Bazin Ratification by Chamber 11 Jun

FL1106151592 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Excerpts] The Haitian deputies ratified the choice of Marc Bazin as prime minister of the consensus government during a session of parliament yesterday afternoon, 10 June. Yesterday's session was possible due to an agreement reached between the socialist bloc, which had not agreed with the way in which the prime minister was chosen; and the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesian bloc, which is well-known for its opposition to the Washington Agreement and its progovernment stands,

and which always believed that the ratification was crucial to the untangling of the country.

In spite of its opposition to the manner in which the leader of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH] was chosen as the next head of government, the socialist bloc had maintained that it was willing to discuss the formation of a true consensus government. During the session two days ago, the socialist group had requested a 24-hour reprieve to consider the decision it would make at the moment of the vote. The choice of a new prime minister is the result of negotiations held at Villa d'Accueil in early May between the provisional executive, Army leaders, and a parliamentary committee, organized to resolve the crisis the country had been experiencing for eight months. [passage omitted]

During the week that the choice was made, the two chambers met separately to discuss the candidacy of the MIDH leader for this post. After all Bazin's files had been analyzed, in compliance with Article 157 of the Constitution, the senators ratified the choice of the new prime minister at the end of last week. The discussions, however, continued until this week in the Chamber of Deputies. The session two days ago involved so much opposition by the socialist bloc that the parliamentarians were obliged to meet in camera to reach an agreement between the two blocs, which eventually resulted in yesterday's decision.

Marc Bazin who will take office as head of the consensus government in compliance with the Villa d'Accueil Agreement, is 60 years old and founder of the MIDH in 1986. [passage omitted]

The next step in implementing the law on the Villa d'Accueil Agreement is a presentation of the prime minister's general policy to parliament. According to observers of political life in the country, this step should not take long, so the consensus government should be quickly established.

Bissainthe Comments on Bazin

FL1106210592 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Minister of Information Gerard Bissainthe made a statement to Radio Metropole stating: I have the feeling of having completely fulfilled my mission. I now believe the state will be in good hands. The nation has sound reasons for hope. The minister of information of the provisional government expressed his faith in the team that will follow the government of which he is a part. While he avoids commenting on the work in which the consensus government will get involved, Gerard Bissainthe expresses his trust in Marc Bazin, prime minister approved by the parliamentarians. Right now the provisional government is preparing itself to hand over control to the designated officials and strictly limits itself to the terms of the Villa d'Acceuil tripartite agreement. Gerard Bissainthe speaks.

[Begin recording] [Bissainthe] As a matter of fact, the tripartite agreement which was signed at Villa d'Acceuil provides the following in Article 5: The current head of government, along with his cabinet, will remain on duty until the installation of the consensus government. The law issued by the tripartite group provides in Article 1-B, referring to Article 4 of the tripartite agreement from Villa d'Acceuil, the following: the mandate of the provisional president ends with the installation of the consensus government provided for in the agreement. [passage omitted] What I mean is that as soon as the new government is installed, the duty of this government ends. However, the work continues. I always insist on the point that the state must continue. The state must keep running. [passage omitted]

I believe that I did my best. Did I do a good job? The people who will evaluate the work of the minister will answer. [passage omitted]. I am happy that as far as I was able, I did what was to be done. [passage omitted] I will do my job until the new government arrives. [passage omitted]

I believe that Marc Bazin is a very capable, competent man. I therefore think that the state boat is in good hands. As for the work that this government is to accomplish, it depends mostly on the mission that it is assigned. Remember that this government has a precise mission. [passage omitted] They have a task to fulfill. I believe that everyone knows about the task since it was defined in the Villa d'Acceuil Agreement and also in the law following this agreement. I think that the state has a very capable person at the helm. There should not be any concerns. How would they do the job and their work? I am in no position to speak of that. I can only say that the country has sound reason to be optimistic. [end recording]

FNCD Seeks Postponement of Further Ratification

FL1106183692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] [Words indistinct] the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] extended an invitation to the colleagues of the socialist bloc. The meeting took place this morning at the National Congress of Democratic Movements premises. [Words indistinct] the socialist deputies invited their FNCD colleagues to return to the Parliament to participate in the works and deliberations of the Assembly. In its reply to this invitation, the National Front for Change and Democracy Parliamentary Bloc solicited the postponement of the ratification of the prime minister to within a reasonable time frame in order to allow the participation of the Front in the search for a national consensus.

Boycotts Bazin Presentation

FL1206130192 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Haiti's new Prime Minister Marc Bazin will make a statement to parliament today outlining his policies for

the nation. Mr. Bazin is a conservative economist who was confirmed late Wednesday [10 June] by the Haitian Senate, 44 to four. He takes over from Joseph Nerette, the man installed by Haiti's military rulers.

All 24 representatives of the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD], the ones who still support the reinstatement of the elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, were boycotting the meeting.

Meanwhile, international relief officials say people in northwestern Haiti are dying from malnutrition and hunger. Famine continues, they say, in an alarming rate because of dwindling food supplies there.

Panama

Report of Death of Second U.S. Soldier Denied

PA1106192392 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 1850 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] We have received a news bulletin from the office of Major Dario Arrue, deputy director of the National Police. It states that according to police reports, Captain Ronald Marshall, one of the two U.S. soldiers shot on 10 June, is out of danger.

The bulletin refutes the ACAN-EFE news agency dispatch that reported the U.S. soldier had died.

Reportage on U.S. President's 5-Hour Visit

Linares Views Issues

PA1106183592 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1754 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares has said that issues related to the transfer of the canal to Panamanian hands and not on the permanence of bases on national territory will be discussed during a meeting with President George Bush:

[Begin recording] [Linares] For Panama the visit by President Bush is positive, first because the United States is currently the sole world power; second because of the close ties that exist between Panama and the United States for reasons known to all; and third because most countries of the Western world are implementing—and this is a reality—a rapprochement policy toward the United States.

[Unidentified reporter] What will be Panama's position on the canal treaties during discussions with the United States on 11 June?

[Linares] If you are actually asking about the military bases, Panama will not bring up that issue at all. You know perfectly well that the national government has a very clear position that is known to all. As for the canal treaties, the main issue that will be discussed pertains to the canal's transfer from the United States to Panama. That is indeed a very important topic that all Panamanians should be interested in.

[Reporter] Mr. Foreign Minister, as for Panama's position at the Rio summit, has a specific plan already been drafted?

[Linares] Panama drafted a document. Panama's technical team drafted a document to be presented to the group in Rio. That has been done already. However, I would rather have you ask technical officials of the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources for any information in that regard, because they know more about the matter than the foreign ministry.

[Reporter] Who will be the Panamanian Government's spokesman?

[Linares] The director...[pauses] I mean, we must consider two points in the Rio group...[pauses] pardon me, at the Rio summit there will be a plenary meeting in which only heads of state will speak. No one other than heads of state or government will be allowed to speak. Moreover, working commissions will be involved. [end recording]

Agenda Reviewed

PA1106154192 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 11 Jun 92 p 64

[Report by Aneldo Arosemena]

[Excerpt] The U.S. Administration's concern about Panamanian territory being used for trafficking and money laundering by drug traffickers, and charges that individuals close to President Guillermo Endara are somehow connected to drug money laundering, are reportedly included in President George Bush's agenda for discussion with his Panamanian counterpart. A source with ties to U.S. Embassy personnel provided that information. The source added that U.S. President Bush is not highlighting the Panama Canal issue, since the U.S. Administration has publicly stated its decision to abide by the letter and spirit of the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Treaties. The treaties call for the evacuation and dismantling of U.S. "defense sites" from the country by noon on 31 December 1999.

A Presidential Palace Press Office communique was sent by fax and messenger service to all news media, indicating that Endara will discuss with Bush the Panama Canal Treaties and Endara's decision to not renegotiate the U.S. military presence. Our source, however, said that Bush is setting the agenda. [passage omitted]

Weapons Communique Issued

PA1106163192 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 11 Jun 92 p 20

[Text] Jose Nelson Brandao, director for Institutional Public Security Affairs of the Government and Justice Ministry, has issued a brief communique noting that persons must abstain from carrying weapons between the hours of 0600 and 1600. The director wishes to draw the attention of all private security agencies and businesses that employ armed personnel in the areas of the Bella Vista Theater, along Balboa Avenue, Cuba Avenue, Via Espana, Central Avenue, Calidonia, Santa Ana, and Cathedral areas.

All agencies are advised that their personnel must abstain from carrying visible weapons.

Endara Comments

PA1106172692 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1622 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Report by Homero Londono]

[Text] Thank you, Donald Quintero. As I was saying, Panamanian President Guillermo Endara has arrived, accompanied by the first lady and cabinet minister. We have a statement by President Endara on the visit of U.S. President George Bush to Panama.

[Begin recording] [Endara] The illustrious visitor will visit with us in the time he has available. It is an important visit because we are partners in the administration of the Panama Canal. As partners in the fulfillment of the Canal Treaties it is important that we maintain excellent relations. President Bush has often stated his interest in maintaining good relations with Panama and the Panamanians.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you have an agenda?

[Endara] In reality, there is no agenda. Neither of us has a planned agenda. The main issue for Panama will be the transition period from now to the year 2000, when U.S. troops will evacuate the military bases and turn over the Panama Canal to us. It is very important that this transition be orderly. We want to do so in agreement with the United States, so that it will be a fluid transition.

[Reporter] Do you have a comment on the killing of the U.S. soldier?

[Endara] It is regrettable and I hope it will not have any adverse effect on our relations. [end recording]

President Arrives

PA1106170792 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1631 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Dear listeners, U.S. Air Force One has just landed at Tocumen International Airport carrying U.S. President George Bush. Our reporter Celso Contreras is describing the events as they occur. U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton, accompanied by Mr. Varela of the Presidential Protocol Office, is waiting to greet him as soon as he lands. From here they will go to Paitilla Airport.

Mr. Varela has confirmed that U.S. President George Bush has arrived. U.S. Marine escorts are lined up; Chinook helicopters and rapid deployment Cobra helicopters are starting up their engines now for Paitilla Airport, where the protocol ceremony welcoming the U.S. President will be held. At Paitilla, President Guillermo Endara Galimany will greet his U.S. counterpart George Walker Bush. It is the sixth visit by a U.S. President to Panama, and President Bush's second visit to Panama. The first time he was here was as U.S. vice president to President Ronald Reagan.

Demonstrators Approach Plaza

PA1106181592 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1751 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Report by Roberto Rolando Rodriguez from Porras Square in Panama City—live]

[Text] Right now, a group of demonstrators of the Revolutionary Students Front [FER-29] is approaching. They are accompanied by widows [of those killed in the 20 December 1989 invasion] and men wearing black. It is a considerable group. [Chanting slogans] We are talking with leader (?Genaro Lopez). What does this demonstration mean.

[(Lopez)] It is an action to protest the presence of President Bush. We hold him to be chief culprit of the tragedy that took place in Panama. He authorized the 20 December invasion, where over 5,000 people were killed. He ordered economic sanctions against the Panamanian people that crippled our economy.

Endara Letter Welcomes Bush

PA1106184392 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Jun 92 p A9

[Letter of greeting from President Guillermo Endara to U.S. President Bush, on the occasion of President Bush's visit to Panama on 11 June]

[Text] On the occasion of the presence of the honorable U.S. President George Bush and his distinguished wife, Barbara Bush, in our country, we extend to the illustrious guests a most cordial welcome on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Panama.

This occasion occurs at a time when the United States maintains the most normal relations with our country; when both nations are guided by a direct and historic association arising from the vast civilizing project, the Panama Canal.

Mr. Bush is arriving at a time when Panamanians have renewed faith that, with the understanding of his government and people, the prejudices that might have developed regarding the spirit and feelings of the people of the United States will be totally erased.

The presence of President Bush in Panama, in a climate of order and stability, will permit frank dialogue between friends and show the world that we enjoy the stability of democratic institutions and are walking on paths of progress.

We, therefore, are very pleased to have in our fatherland the worthy representative of a country renowned for its love of respect and justice. We are certain that his visit to Panama will provide us, once again, with the opportunity to give irrevocable testimony to the peoples of the world of the United States' noble and disinterested disposition in its relations with Panama.

In welcoming the President of the United States, we wish him a pleasant stay in our country and trust his visit will be the reaffirmation of that vast moral, noble, majestic, and eternal project, which is fraternity among our peoples, achieved on the basis of mutual respect and faith in our destinies and ideals.

President Bush; Mrs. Bush: Welcome!!!

[Signed] Guillermo Endara Galimany

President of the Republic of Panama

Demonstration Near Palace

PA1106185592 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1822 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Report by Carlos Rosman "near the Panamanian Presidential Palace"]

[Text] Good afternoon, listeners. Hector Avila, leader of the Chorrillo neighborhood residents, and about 20 members of his group, which they call the Martyrs of Chorrillo, are here about 30 meters from the Presidential Palace. At this time they are trying to pass through the cordoned off area to move toward the Presidency. A few more Chorrillo residents are now arriving. They had told us earlier that they had blocked Martyrs Avenue [4th of July Avenue] and 27th Street in Chorrillo but, because we had not confirmed it, we did not want to air that in our previous reports. However, they have arrived here and we will broadcast the remarks made by Hector Avila when he was intercepted by presidential security forces and some U.S. Government security officials. Here is the recording:

[Begin recording] [Avila] The security cordon is over there. We have come here to remind President Endara that we will be coming to see him on 12 June. He promised that he will fulfill our request for the $3,500, the forgiving of the housing debt, and the 173 permanent houses near the Neco de la Guardia gym. We want to ask him whether the invasion justifies the fact that the Panamanian people are going hungry, that the people are looking for food in garbage cans, that the health situation is poor, that there is unemployment, that so many people died in Chorrillo, and that our sovereignty was violated. We tell Mr. Bush that, whomever is in the government, they always talk about patriotism and nationalism before they take office, but after they are in power, they always yield to the North Americans. They just make a lot of noise and forget about the people.

[Unidentified reporter] Hector, are you staying here?

[Avila] We will stay here. We have not come with a violent attitude. We have only come here to tell President Endara that we are coming on 12 June and to tell Mr. Bush that the promises made to the Chorrillo residents have not been kept. [end recording]

Those were the remarks by Hector Avila. The Chorrillo residents continue to gather here, from where we are speaking. They are carrying placards. They have gotten a little closer, but Presidential Palace security forces are preventing them from getting near the building. There is some tension here.

Tear Gas Disrupts Rally

PA1106201692 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1950 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Colleagues at Plaza Porras, please describe what is going on. We have seen that Panama City Mayor Omaira Correa's speech was interrupted due to the tear gas being thrown by the crowd control forces because of the action by the protesters in the plaza area. Please give us a description of what is going on.

Well, we have lost communication with our colleagues in Plaza Porras. We can describe to our listeners that when Mayor Correa began her speech at the rally called Meeting of Friends she had to suspend it because she was visibly affected by the tear gas thrown to contain the people who were protesting.

Well, we now have communication with Plaza Porras.

[Begin unidentified reporter] RPC Radio listeners, the people are now leaving Plaza Porras because the tear gas is too strong. The people in the grandstand, including U.S. President George Bush, have left the site. Here is reporter Rodriguez with more details.

[Rodriguez] We are in the middle of Plaza Porras. The tear gas is affecting the people. That is why the mayor has stopped her speech. The situation is uneasy, but that is due to the tear gas. President Bush had to leave the grandstand because of the tear gas which was thrown because of the individuals who were posted in front of the Don Bosco church and who were apparently causing agitation.

[Unidentified reporter] We can see that none of the personalities are at the grandstand. They have left the area. The people are also leaving Plaza Porras. The event appears to have been suspended. We see women and children being treated for the effects of the tear gas.

Bush Taken to Albrook

PA1106201592 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 2004 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] We have information indicating that President George Bush's security team has transferred him from Plaza Porras to Albrook Air Base, where another rally is scheduled. The rally will be with U.S. citizens.

Shots Heard at Plaza

PA1106210492 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1958 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Reports by Rigoberto Dumas Castillero, Jose Cortes, and Atenogenes Rodriguez from Plaza Porras—live]

[Text] We are very close to the dais. Only a few of Panama's security personnel are remaining here. We have not seen U.S. security personnel, who apparently left the area. Panamanian officials and U.S. President George Bush and his wife left abruptly. We are now

seeing people running out of the plaza into the area between the buildings of the Spanish Embassy and the Electoral Tribunal.

It looked like there was going to be a big downpour, but weather conditions took a turn for the better, which cannot be said for the ceremony. It seems the authorities have left. We are still seeing people running toward the Attorney General's Office. They are heading toward St. John Bosco Church. Jose Cortes is there. We are now going to him.

[Castillero] RPC listeners, it seems several persons....

[Unidentified woman, interrupting] Several persons have been arrested. We think .... [pauses] Everybody is leaving Plaza Porras. The National Police decided to arrest some persons like .... [pauses] The people here in Plaza Porras are protesting as we hear shots in the area.

[Castillero] RPC Radio listeners, there are some people. . . .

[Lopez, interrupting] There has been a clash. We are seeing Legislator Balbina Herrera of the Democratic Revolutionary Party trying to help someone who was arrested by the police. The shooting continues. The police are trying to restore calm in the Plaza Porras. Here now is Atenogeno Rodriguez.

[Rodriguez] I am in the press dais. I can clearly see the police arresting suspicious persons who were here in the area around Plaza Porras. They are apparently participating in the subversive actions taking place now, which led to the suspension of the ceremony that was to be held here. The atmosphere has been very tense since early in the morning, chiefly in the St. John Bosco Church, where the demonstrators were gathered. Our station had been told the demonstrators would probably be evicted from the area.

[Cortes] That is right. When we arrived at Plaza Porras from the Tocumen International Airport, where we covered the arrival of U.S. President George Bush, we saw some groups opposing the presence of the U.S. President. Up until then, the police had controlled the situation in the area around the Finance and Treasury Ministry. The situation now is really delicate. Some demonstrators are trying to flee from the police who are chasing them.

[Dumas] We have here someone who seems to have been shot. He is suffering from the impact of the tear gas. The situation is terrible because of the climate of turmoil that prevails in the area near Plaza Porras. Many people are too stunned to know what to do because of the things that are happening. The police have cordoned off the area. Right now, the sporadic shooting has stopped. We do not know yet where Presidents Guillermo Endara and Bush went. We still do not know where they went.

Plaza Area Reported Normal

PA1106214392 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2106 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Report by Homero Londono]

[Text] We are in the Plaza Porras area again. Everything is normal. There are still riot policemen around the Foreign Ministry and Civil Registration buildings. There are also Public Force members ready and prepared to repress any demonstrators who attempt to approach the area again, where the event to welcome U.S. President George Bush was canceled approximately one hour ago because of the repression carried out by the Public Force and the riot police against a small number of demonstrators around the park.

We repeat. The areas of Calidonia, Central and B Avenues, Via Espana, Balboa Avenue, and near the presidential building are all completely normal. Very few people are still near Plaza Porras. Most of them are onlookers.

Mayor Comments on Incident

PA1106233892 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2115 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Statement by Panama City Mayor Omayra Correa in Panama City—live]

[Text] I believe the whole thing was caused by the lack of experience or training on behalf of the police. Since the beginning, I told the mayors....[pauses] one of the mayors present this morning that the ropes to contain demonstrators should be moved back because they could provoke violent incidents. Someone heard a noise. Apparently it was not a shot, so there was no need to fire tear gas canisters. The police got very nervous and fired many tear gas canisters because the demonstrators were advancing toward them.

You see how Balbina Perinan even kicked a policeman and threw herself at the police—and the police did not dare touch her. You have seen Channel 13's film clips. They show how she snatches prisoners away from the police, who did absolutely nothing. They let her take away a man who was arrested because he was throwing rocks from the Foreign Ministry.

It is a shame because there was an enthusiastic crowd. The people filled the streets from every direction—from Paitilla to the cathedral—in a beautiful and friendly way. Yet 20 or 40 persons—not more than that—imposed their will on the majority. That is not a democracy, that is fascism, that is anarchy. I think the police behaved very badly because they did not handle the situation adequately. The one who disrupted the beautiful demonstration that moved the U.S. President so much—he said that when he addressed the U.S. community at Albrook Air Force Base—was actually an insignificant minority.

The Panamanian police cannot let—like I said on 10 June in a letter to Mr. Oswaldo Fernandez whom, I have learned, is away on a trip—minorities impose their will on the majority in any given situation. It is shameful to see a legislator dragging a common criminal, who was damaging private property and threatening all those who approached the entrances to the plaza, away from the police. Everyone who approached the plaza was threatened and called rabiblanco [derogatory term for upper-class Panamanians].

I believe President Endara will have to reorganize the police because they must guarantee the safety of all and not let a minority—meaning Mrs. Perinan backed by 20 hoodlums—impose its will on the majority gathered there. Both of us....[pauses] the two groups had the right to be there, but we could not impose our will on the others so we could not tell them to leave. The majority, meaning thousands of Panamanians, participated in a warm and beautiful demonstration. The people went voluntarily. Buses or transportation were not set up for that purpose, and no free gifts were given.

These two women's [as heard] acts of impunity are almost unbearable for democracy. One cannot allow such impunity, such a misused immunity, so a person can snatch away a prisoner, a common criminal from the police, which is very weak and very fearful, and without energy. Therefore, our situation is very bad. Democracy can be weakened a lot when minorities are allowed to carry out violent actions. Democracy is weak when a single person, or two persons, or 40 persons do what they want with impunity, simply because they want others to do what they want—and they do it violently. Our situation is quite bad if we have police not capable of protecting the lives and assets of the community, the majority, all the Panamanian people. Our situation is quite bad. Our situation is quite bad when the chief of the police leaves the country, regardless of the reasons, and fails to assume a leading role when there is important government activity. That includes talks and a visit by the president of a country with which we have the most important business for our children's future, meaning the Panama Canal. Our situation is quite bad.

And yet we are very well, because the majority of the people attended the event despite the terror imposed by 20 criminals, by students found possessing cocaine who take advantage of their protests to rob cars on the Transisthmian Highway. We are concerned because the times of the Noriega followers are back, the times when they tried to impose their will on us. That cannot be. Telemetro Television aired scenes of a legislator hugging a criminal. It is shameful. If she is the mother of the homeland, and if such people are called the fathers of the homeland, we are in sad shape. It is a poor state of affairs when terrorism and violence are stimulated, when terrorists both here and abroad—the people who do not believe in democracy—take hold of the media to disinform, overwhelm, insult, denigrate, and do everything that should not be done with a microphone. I think this should be a time of reflection for those of us who want democracy. This should be a moment of reflection for the government of President Endara, who must guarantee the will of the majority of the people. That majority was evident today on 50th Street, Balboa Avenue, all of Central Avenue, the Cathedral area. The people came out even though they were scared. There were all kinds of calls reporting bombs. Some of the people tried to set the platforms on fire, something they should never have attempted. An American soldier was killed. They did so many things.

Yet the people, acting civilly, did what they thought should be done, what they wanted to do, of their own volition. Despite everything, the people were there. It was a beautiful moment: people with flags greeting a foreign president. As President Bush said at Albrook Air Force Station, the Panamanian people are determined to live in democracy. He also said that the demonstration by a very, very small minority will not impose its will on an entire people who have suffered and endured pain to attain democracy.

That is what I have to say. I think the people should think carefully. The government, particularly Minister Chevalier, will have to make structural changes in the Public Force, which could not guarantee the safety of the majority of the Panamanian people and could not see that the government's decision was carried out. Minister Chevalier will have to determine who was in charge of area security to protect those who wanted to do what they thought was right. We who feel free, who returned to the country through a painful but necessary action, who cried many times with the relatives of those died, want to work and forge ahead. Those who want to take us back to the times of Noriega are in the minority. A government cannot govern according to the opinion of a minority. It cannot let itself be manipulated by pressures from a minority that wants to impose its will and its retrograde, obsolete, totalitarian, outdated, anachronistic ideas that did not work anywhere in the world. We want democracy, we want to respect one another. The government must guarantee that respect.

Today we saw that the policemen did not know how to handle the situation. They are not trained, they are an Army that is structured as a police force. There is an incongruity in the training the men receive. Many of them are in the force just for the sake of being there, waiting to retire; others are quite indifferent, which has been proven; others feel out of place because they have lost privileges and are hurt by that; therefore, they cannot guarantee the country's stability and democracy. The police force must be restructured.

Even before this incident, from the evening of 10 June, I noticed the Panamanians' indifference toward the organization of security. Early this morning I went down there and attempted to talk to the major in charge of that area because I saw they were not doing what should have been done: establishing the area reserved for demonstrators farther from Plaza Porras, much farther, to prevent an incident like today's from happening.

The police showed an enormous lack of experience in controlling 40 people; they needlessly filled the plaza with tear gas. Those 40 people should have been pushed further back so they would not interrupt the majority, who had been there from very early on in the day, in the sun, making their own decisions, despite the terrorist threats that were made through almost all of the media except EL SIGLO. Despite the sun and a threat of rain, they remained there. Those people should have been respected, and the police had to guarantee the respect they deserved. The demonstrators should have occupied a spot without disturbing the majority.

After everything that has happened, I can still find something positive in this: Today I became convinced that our police are not well directed. The entire government was seated there and could see the poor handling of security at Plaza Porras, the poor organization of the riot police, and the lack of leadership in guaranteeing that the event would go off properly. The policemen—and no one else—were the ones who broke up the event for President Bush. There were very few criminals, and they could have been controlled. You saw on television how the police were afraid of Mrs. Perinan. She took a criminal out of their hands and the police did nothing. They turned him over to her, although they had seen him throwing stones and damaging private property. The police turned the criminal over to Mrs. Perinan. She dragged him away from them and no one dared to do anything: She walked away with her criminal.

It is very sad when the people who must ensure order, discipline, law enforcement, and the rules of the game of democracy are so weak, so poorly trained, so lacking in leadership. It is truly regrettable because they are good men, but they are really disoriented and poorly directed.

This is all I have to say, but I must also thank the Panamanian people very much for doing what they considered the right thing, for doing what they thought they had to do. What happened in Panama, with the exception of the tear gas thrown by inexperienced, poorly trained policemen who are lacking in leadership, was very lovely. From Paitilla to the cathedral, Balboa Avenue was lovely. The Yacht Club was a spectacle with all of its boats out. People were on the sidewalks; 50th Street reminded me of the days of the Civic Movement struggle when it used to be full of white handkerchiefs and Panamanian flags. It was a very lovely sight, and I believe President Bush and his very distinguished wife have taken with them a very lovely memory of Panama. What they saw upon their arrival at Plaza Porras and throughout the streets of Panama was affection and respect for a neighboring country. That is what I have to say.

Bush Departs for Summit

PA1106220692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2138 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Panama City, 11 Jun (EFE)—U.S. President George Bush left for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, after a troublesome five-hour visit to Panama, during which one of his speeches was suspended amid tear gas and shots fired by police against some demonstrators.

President Bush's plane left at 2130 GMT after the president ended his official ceremonies with a visit to Albrook Air Force Base, one of the 10 U.S. bases located on the shores of the Panama Canal.

Communique on Visit Issued

PA1206004492 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2331 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Communique issued by the Presidency Ministry in Panama City on 11 June]

[Text] The Panamanian Government hereby wishes to express appreciation for the people's civic conduct during all the events scheduled to welcome U.S. President George Bush.

As everyone knows, the route from the Marcos A. Gelabert Airport in Paitilla to the Presidency and from here to Plaza Porras was marked by numerous demonstrations of warm welcome for the distinguished visitor. Unlike what happened during the dictatorship, the people's participation was spontaneous and without pressure. The Panamanian people showed their satisfaction over President Bush's visit. The meetings between the two presidents at the Presidency were fruitful and greatly important for Panama's economic development and strengthening democracy in the country.

It is regrettable that small groups linked to the previous government staged incidents that prevented the successful culmination of the events through which the Panamanian community tried to show affection toward the U.S. President.

Nevertheless, President Bush's visit proved greatly beneficial to the country. In addition, Mr. Bush and his distinguished wife have received a pleasant impression of the feelings of the great majority of those of us who live in this country, just as Mr. Bush said at Albrook and reaffirmed to President Endara prior to departing for Rio de Janeiro.

Argentina

Kuwaiti Amir Visits on Way to Earth Summit

PY1006185192 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Report by Silvina Martinez Porta at Government House]

[Excerpt] President Carlos Menem is meeting in his office with the Kuwaiti chief of state, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, who arrived yesterday evening in our country.

The Kuwaiti amir will stay in Buenos Aires until early tomorrow morning, when he will leave for Rio de Janeiro to participate in the Earth Summit. [passage omitted]

Armenian President Arrives for 48-Hour Visit

PY1106183192 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2044 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Jun (TELAM)—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan arrived from Montevideo at 1720 [2020 GMT] at the metropolitan airport, beginning a 48-hour visit to the country. He is scheduled to meet President Carlos Menem.

Petrosyan was met at the airport's military section by President Carlos Menem, Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, Justice Minister Leon Aeslanian, and others.

Minister on Condor-2, Domestic Satellite Project

PY1106163992 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Defense Minister Dr. Antonio Erman Gonzalez has confirmed that the Falda del Carmen facilities, where the Condor-2 missile project was developed, will be used to build a domestic satellite.

The minister said the Falda del Carmen facilities are perfectly recyclable for peaceful uses and for improving the human standard of living.

After confirming the total elimination of the Condor-2 project, Erman Gonzalez announced that the government, along with the Spanish Defense Ministry's Aerospace Technical Institute, will undertake the construction of a satellite.

Air Force Chief Denies Existence of Condors

PY1106183592 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1709 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Jun (TELAM)—The Air Force chief of staff, Brigadier Jose Julia, said today that it would be "difficult" for two Condor missiles to exist as reported in a recent book. He recalled that this type of armament was completely dismantled by government order.

Regarding the report, Julia said that "Argentina did not yet have the technology" to finish building the Condor missile before the project was abolished. He stated that the book's authors "did not give any data or specifications."

Brigadier Julia made these comments after meeting President Carlos Menem in the Olivos residence and briefing him on the recent meeting of military chiefs of the Americas in Honduras last week.

Regarding the book indicating the existence of two Condor missiles, Julia said that it is "a good science fiction book." He added: "If those two Condor missiles exist, I do not know about it; I do not know where they are." He reiterated that the book's authors gave no specifications.

The two missiles' existence already has been categorically denied by the Defense Ministry.

Julia, who said that the issue related to the missiles was not discussed with President Menem, labeled the meeting "routine." He also denied any changes in the Air Force command.

In answering reporters about reports that he may leave the Air Force command in the near future, Julia said: "Absolutely no one has told me personally anything about it."

Venezuela

Ochoa Says Situation Normal; Perez To Speak

PA1106180792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1558 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] On 11 June at the Miraflores Presidential Palace, Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich said the situation in the country is completely normal:

[Begin Ochoa recording] I have said consistently that the situation in the Armed Forces is absolutely normal. There are student demonstrations that disturb public order but the country's situation is not serious enough to prevent the president from leaving the country. [end recording]

Also at the Miraflores Presidential Palace, Interior Affairs Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz has announced that President Carlos Andres Perez on 11 June will make important announcements to the country on his trip to the Rio summit:

[Begin Pinerua recording] I understand the president will make announcements or a special announcement on his upcoming trip to Brazil. However, regardless of what that announcement may be, it will not be made because the country is in jeopardy. [end recording]

Copei Ministers Withdraw From Executive Branch

PA1206020892 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] The Social Christian Party, Copei, National Committee held a special meeting on 11 June and decided its activists would withdraw from the executive branch. The Copei National Committee meeting began at 1000 with the participation of all its members, including those who were cabinet ministers—up to that moment. Only two points were included on the agenda: Copei's permanence in the executive branch and the punishment of Senator Jose Candelario Casus for his failure to attend the meeting in which the president's trip was authorized. The meeting concluded at 1200 with the unanimous adoption of two decisions: Copei's withdrawal from the cabinet and Senator Casus' expulsion.

[Begin Copei Secretary General Eduardo Fernandez recording] I report to the country that as of this very moment the two ministers who are Copei activists withdrew from the economic cabinet, the national cabinet, the executive cabinet. The authorization they had to be government ministers ends on this date. I wish to state categorically and emphatically Copei reasserts its pledge to defend democracy in Venezuela. [end recording]

The Copei secretary general insisted the crisis will not result in a coup d'etat.

Perez Cancels Rio Trip

PA1206014192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez has decided not to travel to the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit after evaluating the country's current political situation and the COPEI's decision to give up its posts in the executive branch.

Celestino Armas, minister of the Presidency Secretariat, made the announcement at Miraflores Palace a few minutes ago. He said President Perez will address the country on 12 June.

[Begin Armas recording] President Carlos Andres Perez has decided not to make the trip he had scheduled to participate in the UN summit in Rio de Janeiro, given the cabinet crisis created by the COPEI ministers' resignation. President Perez will address the country on 12 June. [end recording]

Fedecamaras Issues Communique on Situation

PA1106203392 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] The Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] on 10 June stated its position on the country's difficult situation. The Fedecamaras issued an official communique stating that the symptoms of unrest and anarchy that are plaguing the nation jeopardize the integrity of Venezuelan society.

The document's contents were announced by Freddy Rojas Parra, head of the business sector, who also said the organization is distressed by the persistent disturbances and consequent social instability caused by the breakdown of public services. All of this affects the Venezuelan quality of life.

According to the document, personal insecurity, drug trafficking and consumption, improper administration of justice, and general corruption worsen the situation and have caused profound dissatisfaction among the people.

In its communique, the Fedecamaras proposes a greater social coalition that will allow a reorientation of the political, social, and economic spheres.

[Begin Rojas recording, in progress] ...that is why we are offering participation, calling on the rest of the population and Venezuelan leaders so that we may reach agreement in at least four basic areas to show the population that democracy—despite the fact that it has eroded and lost credibility—can indeed offer solutions as a political system.

We believe that the corruption issue should elicit national agreement. We should also agree on a frontal attack on inflation, deal with the topic of personal insecurity, and the search—without blocking majority approval—for an agreement on individual ballot voting to elect the best people, those most qualified and suitable, for the legislative positions to be filled in December. [end recording]

The Fedecamaras document also states that it is necessary to reach a truce on the current confrontations as well as to promote complete political and social reform if we want to safeguard the democratic framework of our legal institutions.

This document states the Venezuelan business position on the nation's difficult situation and will be presented to President of the Republic Carlos Andres Perez as well as to various political groups.

Student Demonstrations Continue, Police Respond

PA1206030492 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0006 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] The Metropolitan Police prevented a group of students from marching from Carabobo Plaza to the Congress to deliver a document expressing their views on the country's situation.

Students began to arrive early in the morning of 12 June at Carabobo Plaza where they waited for other delegations to join them in a march along University Avenue to the city center. The student leaders knew the march had not been authorized, but they told policemen it was going to be peaceful.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified policeman] We talked with several student leaders who agreed to stay at the plaza.

[Unidentified reporter] What will happen if they try to leave the plaza?

[Policeman] If they try to leave the plaza, we will ask our superiors for instructions. So far, the student leaders say they have agreed to remain at the plaza.

[Unidentified student] We reached an agreement with the police: If we do not throw rocks or do anything else like that, why should they interfere? [end recording]

In accordance with Metropolitan Police headquarters instructions, the students were not permitted to go beyond Carabobo Plaza. As soon as the leaders moved out with banners, a water truck arrived and sprayed the students, who ran away and tried to rally again at the Congress. They were dislodged from that area by police.

The capital was not the only place to witness disturbances and demonstrations. Several acts of violence occurred in the country's interior as well. According to a correspondent in Carabobo, Luis Segundo Perez, Valencia was again the scene of confrontations between student groups and policemen. The security agencies rapidly suppressed the disturbances with tear gas canisters and plastic bullets. There were no casualties.

[Begin policeman recording] The center zone is now clear of the rioters, who constantly try to gather here and vandalize. We are on a continuous watch until the situation returns to normal. All avenues have been reopened so the people can again circulate freely in the area. [end recording]

After several days of violence, the situation in Maracay slowly returned to normal when student protesters and demonstrators marching through the center of the capital Aragua were confronted and controlled by public order forces. On 11 June, a different side of Maracay could be seen following the many protests and student demonstrations that had concerned a majority of the population. This morning, students of the Joaquina Villal Technical and Industrial School went out into the street. Shortly thereafter, police talked to the students and took charge of the situation, thus avoiding a confrontation and damage to public and private property. The Aragua security organizations maintained strict surveillance in the city's center and commercial areas to preclude any incidents.

[Begin Maracay Governor Carlos Tablante recording] The country has been experiencing a difficult situation these days. There is much uncertainty and there are many rumors. Regarding the wave of violence that has worried the population so much, I must report that through dialogue and firm action on the part of the government in dealing with crime, looting, and hoodlums, we have reduced violence to a minimum. Through order brigades, it is the students themselves who have been eliminating the infiltrators. [end recording]

Tablante also confirmed that several persons have been detained as a consequence of street disturbances occurring independently of the student movement. The full weight of the law will be applied to such rioters. The situation in Maracay has returned to normal. Just as Governor Tablante says, this calm situation can be expected to continue as a result of talks with the student leaders.

Meanwhile, students of the Cecilio Acosta University College in Los Teques clashed with policemen this morning. According to Freddy Quintero, cultural director of Miranda State, this outbreak of disturbances can be attributed to the support that students from Altos Mirandinos give to the movement throughout the country. Nevertheless, students are aware of the regional government's positive response, such as refurbishing buildings and donating property and collective transportation vehicles.

[Begin Quintero recording] The students argue that they must back the national protest movements because local and regional governments have already met their initial demands, such as improving the buildings. The old building of the Polyclinic Hospital in Los Teques was given to us; we were given new busses, and we will receive funds for a majority of the dining services, which we will improve substantially. With the funds we received from the budget, we could hardly meet the students' needs. [end recording]